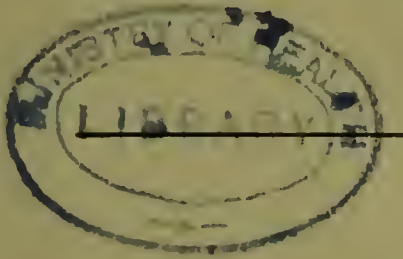


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Combined Districts of
BATHAVON, KEYNSHAM,
FROME (Urban and Rural)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year 1953



R. H. G. H. DENHAM, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

Health Department,
8 Cleveland Place East,
Bath.
Telephone : Bath 5391

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
8 CLEVELAND PLACE EAST,
BATH.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the
Bathavon, Keynsham and Frome
District Councils.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The notifiable infections showed an increased prevalence during the year but measles alone reached epidemic proportions. A sharp rise was experienced in the number of cases of poliomyelitis, two of which were fatal. Sonne dysentery threatened several parts of the area but fortunately the spread was less general than was expected. No case of food poisoning was notified and the area remained free from diphtheria for another complete year.

Ministry enquiries were held into a number of water and sewage schemes most of which received official sanction. This is pleasing to record as the provision of necessities such as these have appeared in the past to have been governed more by financial considerations than by an assessment of what is best in the interests of public health. The need for education in personal hygiene becomes more and more obvious each year that passes but satisfactory results are difficult to obtain in areas where such essential public services are lacking.

There was little change in the birth and death rates for the year. The birth rate showed a very slight reduction of 0.14 and the death rate a slight increase of 0.53 while the infantile mortality rate was reduced by 1.90. These figures continue to compare well with those of the rest of the country.

I am grateful to many people for their friendly co-operation and assistance during the year.

Yours faithfully,
R. H. G. H. DENHAM.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

SCARLET FEVER

Thirty cases of scarlet fever were notified, 4 of which were admitted to hospital. Last year there were 23 cases with 3 admissions to hospital.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH

It was an epidemic year for measles ; 1,110 cases being notified compared with 28 cases the previous year. The incidence of whooping cough remained much the same, 173 cases being notified compared with 182 in 1952.

PNEUMONIA

Notifications of pneumonia jumped from 10 to 33. Seven were admitted to hospital and there was one death.

DIPHTHERIA

Diphtheria was absent from the area for the third successive year. Small stocks of antitoxic serum are still retained for use in case of emergency after office hours at Bath City Police Station for the Bathavon area, Keynsham Hospital for the Keynsham area, and Victoria Hospital, Frome, for the Frome Urban and Rural areas.

ERYSIPELAS

Thirteen cases of erysipelas were notified compared with 4 last year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of tuberculosis were almost the same as last year, 49 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary cases as against 51 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Two cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified compared with 1 last year.

PARATYPHOID

No food poisoning was reported from any part of the area but one case of paratyphoid fever was notified. The sufferer was a boy of 15 who contracted the disease immediately on his return from

a motoring holiday with his family in France. He was unable to give any indication whatever as to the possible source of infection. The rest of the family, fortunately, remained unaffected. An interesting point in this case was that the boy remained a carrier of the organism for over 6 months before he was finally cleared. This in spite of the use of intensive modern chemotherapeutic treatment.

POLIOMYELITIS

Notifications of poliomyelitis rose to 11 compared with 5 for last year. Two of these were of a fulminating type and both proved fatal. The unpredictability of this dread disease was well demonstrated in one of these families. The husband of one of the fatal cases complained first of pain in the back of his neck and vague pains and aches in his limbs. This was attributed to a week-end spent in strenuous work in the garden but when, later in the week, he developed marked weakness of one of his legs poliomyelitis was suspected. This was confirmed in hospital. By the end of the week his condition was much improved but his wife and small daughter both began to complain of headache and vague pains. A few days later the little girl was quite well but her mother was completely overwhelmed by the disease and succumbed despite all efforts to save her. There is little doubt that the three must have been exposed to the same infection but the effects produced were markedly different in each case.

MENINGITIS AND ENCEPHALITIS

One case of meningitis and one case of encephalitis were notified. No notifications of either disease was received the previous year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47

A number of cases were referred for action under this section of the National Assistance Act, 1948. Compulsory removal was found to be necessary in one case only.

STATISTICAL TABLE

The figures in this table represent the birth rates, death rates and infantile mortality rates for the combined districts for the six years period, 1948-53 with the comparative figures for England and Wales.

					Birth rate	Death rate	Infantile Mortality rate
Combined districts	1948	....	....		16·2	9·9	23·2
England and Wales	1948	....	....		17·9	10·8	34·0
Combined districts	1949	....	....		16·41	11·48	19·49
England and Wales	1949	....	....		16·7	11·7	32·0
Combined districts	1950	....	....		17·94	10·61	21·99
England and Wales	1950	....	....		15·8	11·6	29·8
Combined districts	1951	....	....		16·55	11·29	13·66
England and Wales	1951	....	....		15·5	12·5	29·6
Combined districts	1952	....	....		16·05	9·52	20·74
England and Wales	1952	....	....		15·3	11·3	27·6
Combined districts	1953	....	....		15·91	10·05	18·84
England and Wales	1953	....	....		15·5	11·4	26·8

For the third year in succession there was a fall in the birth rate but only by the almost negligible figure of 0·14. The death rate was slightly increased by 0·53 to a rate of 10·05. The infantile mortality rate was reduced by 1·90 to 18·84. All these rates continue to bear favourable comparison with those of the country as a whole.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE ALL AREAS

Cause	Under week	1—4 weeks	1—6 months	6—12 months	Total
Cerebral haemorrhage....	—	1	—	—	1
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	4
Atelectasis	3	—	—	—	3
Sarcoma mediastinum	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	4
Spina bifida	1	—	1	—	2
Birth injury	2	—	—	—	2
	12	2	2	1	17

BATHAVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED, MID-JUNE, 1953	....	....	19,170
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	39,996 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, APRIL 1ST, 1953	....	....	5,525
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....	....	3.46
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£435
RATEABLE VALUE, APRIL, 1953	....	....	£104,382

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	....	R. S. TIBBOTTS, Esq., J.P.
<i>Chairman of the Health and Highway Committee</i>	....	H. J. COTTON, Esq.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	....	C. C. AXFORD, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>		H. C. L. MORRIS, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
<i>Health Department Clerk</i>	....	MISS TENNANT

Council Offices :

30-32 Westgate Buildings, Bath

Telephone : BATH 5391/5

Health Department :

8 Cleveland Place East, Bath

Telephone : BATH 5391/5

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 313.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	150	155	305
Illegitimate	....	....	....	3	5	8
				153	160	313

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	—	2
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	1	1
				2	1	3

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1953	....	....	....	....	....	15.84
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					9.21
Death Rate, rate per 1000 estimated average population						9.67

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....			19.45
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....					19.97
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births						Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 213, 98 males and 115 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death:—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	5	—	5
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
" " lung, bronchus	4	1	5
" " breast	—	4	4
" " uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	21	32
Coronary disease, angina	14	9	23
Hypertension with heart disease	6	5	11
Other heart disease	17	35	52
Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
Influenza	2	3	5
Pneumonia	3	6	9
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	2	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	9	17
Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	98	115	213

Deaths under one year of age

There were 7 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 3 male and 4 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	....	5	1—4 weeks	....	2
1—6 months	....	Nil	6—12 months	....	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	279	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever)	10	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or Paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	11	1	—
Whooping cough	28	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	11	—	1
Acute influenzal pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	4	4	—
Acute encephalitis	1 (post inf.)	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	9	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	354	9	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-two cases of pulmonary and 3 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 5 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis

		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cases on Register, 1.1.53	....	37	29	4	8	41	37
New cases, 1953	....	16	6	3	—	19	6
		53	35	7	8	60	43
Cases removed, 1953	....	8	4	3	2	11	6
On Register, 31.12.53	....	45	31	4	6	49	37

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

Bathampton

The amount of water available from the village springs was just sufficient to enable an uninterrupted supply to be given to the parish throughout the year. The lack of water in this parish is delaying residential development. To overcome this the Council have reached an agreement, subject to the consent of the Ministry, with the Bath Corporation for a bulk supply to serve a portion of the parish. Results of samples taken approximately fortnightly have been satisfactory.

Bathford

The supplies from the village springs together with the supplementary supply from the R.E. works in Wiltshire were sufficient to give an uninterrupted supply except for a short period when a leak occurred and could not be immediately traced.

Combe Hay Supply

The pumping station at Combe Hay now supplies the parishes of Wellow, Dunkerton, Camerton, Combe Hay and Priston. Owing

to housing development within the district supplied, and the increasing demands of agriculture, the pumping plant is at present working to something over 75 per cent. capacity. The water has at all times throughout the year been pure.

Monkton Combe

The 35 houses supplied by the Council have received a pure and uninterrupted supply.

Upper Swainswick

Inadequate storage capacity was responsible during part of the year for some curtailment of the supply during the summer months. This difficulty was overcome by supplementary pumping.

Northstoke, Swinford

Old and partially rocked mains were responsible for a serious shortage during a portion of the year. The West Gloucester Water Company have now extended their mains through the hamlet and a supply therefrom is available.

Hinton Charterhouse

The bulk supply of water obtained from the Combe Down Water Company was just sufficient to give a pure and uninterrupted supply of water to that part of the village supplied by the Council.

Marksbury

The bulk supply obtained from the Clutton Rural District Council is sufficient for domestic needs but insufficient to fulfil all agricultural demands. The Clutton Council are augmenting their own supplies by water obtained from the new Chew reservoir of the Bristol Waterworks Company and will then be in a position to increase the bulk supply to this Council.

SUPPLIES FROM STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

The statutory undertakers operating within the district are the West Gloucester Water Company, the Combe Down Waterworks Company and the Bath Corporation. Samples have been taken regularly from all these supplies and they have been consistently free from impurities. The quantity of the water has been sufficient for all purposes.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

Claverton Village

No difficulties have been experienced with this supply.

Kelston

This supply has remained adequate. Should a shortage occur it would be possible to extend the West Gloucester Company's mains from the adjoining hamlet of Swinford.

Burnett

This estate supply is unsatisfactory both as regards purity and sufficiency, it is hoped that during the coming year the mains of the West Gloucester Water Company will be available. The present supply will then be abandoned.

Results of Samples Taken

<i>Treated after going into supply</i>			<i>Raw water</i>		
<i>Bacteriological</i>		<i>Chemical</i>		<i>Bacteriological</i>	
<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
49	1	7	—	4	—

All water supplies are hard and no difficulties are experienced with regard to plumbo solvent action.

NEW AND EXTENDED SUPPLIES

Mains have been extended by the West Gloucester Water Company to serve the hamlet of Swinford. An extension of the Council's mains has also been made to serve the scattered hamlet of Radford.

It has been a disappointment to the Council that the scheme prepared by the West Gloucester Water Company for a supply of water to Compton Dando, Burnett, Corston and Newton St. Loe has been so long delayed as an adequate and pure supply of water is urgently needed in all these villages.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year a good deal of attention was given to the prevention of infiltration of surface water to sewers in various parts of the district. This work is continuing.

The inadequate arrangements for sewage disposal from parts of the parish of Southstoke continue to cause anxiety, and a scheme for rectifying the difficulties is at present before the Minister. At the time of writing the sewage disposal works at Wellow are receiving some attention with regard to essential renewals. These works

are old and inadequate and should be replaced as soon as practicable. With this exception all the disposal works are in good working order and have been well maintained. The County Sanitary Officer has expressed his satisfaction with regard thereto. Certain very old lengths of sewer, particularly in the district of Combe Down, caused some trouble through collapse and settlement. These sewers received first aid repair but will eventually require renewing.

Some delay has occurred in the scheme for extending the sewers in the parishes of Batheaston and Bathford through the fault of the contractor. The work was continued by another contractor and at the time of writing has almost been completed. The only other sewers laid during the year were on new housing sites in the course of development.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Council carried out routine fortnightly and monthly collections of house refuse from all the parishes. This was done by direct labour, with five covered vehicles and one small open type vehicle. Five partially controlled tips were used for disposal. Through the lack of a market for the sale of waste paper the collection of salvage was discontinued.

HOUSING

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		Conversion to flats or dwellings		Temporary such as Army huts, etc.
	<i>Perm.</i>	<i>Temp.</i>	<i>Perm.</i>	<i>Temp.</i>	<i>Perm.</i>	<i>Temp.</i>	
Local Authority	103	—	83	—	—	—	—
Private Enterprise	49	—	30	—	4	—	—
TOTALS	152	—	113	—	4	—	—

Total number of dwelling houses in district	....	....	....	5,907
„ „ „ dwelling houses owned by the Local Authority	....	....	....	775
„ „ „ post-war houses erected by the Local Authority	....	....	....	651
„ „ „ post-war houses erected by private enterprise....	....	....	....	224

(a)	No. of unfit houses in the district but on which no formal action has been taken	....	....	....	....	102
(b)	No. of houses that have been condemned under the Housing Acts as totally unfit	....	....	....	....	19
	No. of houses occupied under (a)	....	....	....	....	102
	" " " " " (b)	....	....	....	....	Nil

Houses Required

(c)	To replace those unfit	....	....	....	....	102
(d)	To abate overcrowding	....	....	....	....	31
	To overcome unsatisfactory conditions, e.g., two families living in same house but not included in (c) or (d)	....	....	....	....	186
(e)	Total number of applicants for Council houses at the end of the year	....	....	....	....	747

Informal Action

	Number unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts					37
--	---	------	------	------	------	----

Action under Statutory Powers, Public Health Acts

	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—by owners	....	....	....	....	Nil
	—by Local Authority in default of owners	....	....	....	....	Nil

Action under Statutory Powers, Housing Act, 1936

	Number of houses made fit after service of formal action (Sec. 9, 10, 11 and 16)	....	....	....	....	Nil
	Undertakings given but work not complete	....	....	....	....	5

SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

	No. of registered distributors	....	....	....	....	24
	" " dairy premises within the district	....	....	....	....	18

Since the coming into operation of the Milk (Special Designations Specified areas) Order, 1952, and the inclusion of our district in a "specified area" whereby all milk retailed must be graded, licences were issued to the above distributors as follows :—

	No. of dealers' licences to retail tuberculin tested milk	....	....	....	....	18
	" " " " " " pasteurised milk	....	....	....	....	15
	" " " " " " sterilised milk	....	....	....	....	3

No. of supplementary licences to retail tuberculin tested milk	6
" " " " " pasteurised milk	 4
" " " " " sterilised milk	 1

Sampling

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Samples Taken</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin tested	36	22	14
Pasteurised	28	28	—
Sterilised	1	1	—

The major number of samples taken were from dairies bottling milk within the district. The milk as supplied by retailers whose dairies are situated in Bath and Bristol, is regularly sampled by those authorities and in order to avoid duplication only occasional or check samples are taken from them. The County Council also regularly sample the milk supplied to our schools.

ICE-CREAM

No. of premises registered for :—

(a) Manufacture and retail	....	....	....	....	Nil
(b) Manufacture only	....	....	....	....	Nil
(c) Retail only	....	....	....	....	38

The whole of the ice-cream sold in the district is prepared and produced by well-known wholesale manufacturers who supply modern containers for storage at the retailers. No action was necessary at any of the premises and all the samples taken were placed in Grade I.

MEAT AND FOODS

As there are no slaughterhouses in use in the area meat and food inspection was confined to shops and stores. As a result of 63 visits 58 lbs of meat (mainly bone taint) 27 tins of meat products, 21 tins of fish, 31 tins of fruit and vegetables, 47 tins of milk and 14 tins of miscellaneous foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption. These tinned foods were rendered unfit mainly because of the tins being blown or damaged in transit.

Premises where Food is Prepared

There are 26 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Thirty-two inspections were made and informal action under the new bye-laws was taken for minor infringements in respect of 4 premises.

Bakehouses

There are 8 bakehouses in the district all of which were satisfactorily maintained.

RODENT CONTROL

During the twelve months 189 serious cases of infestation were cleared at private residences, shops, factories, schools and nursing homes. Approximately half of these cases were notified by occupants, the remainder were discovered by the rodent operator during his "block control" and "survey" efforts.

The usual bi-annual treatments of the public sewers were undertaken to the satisfaction of the Ministry concerned. The refuse tips also received the customary two-monthly treatments with the result that the numbers of rats have been kept to a minimum.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Thirty-nine licences to station and use individual movable dwellings and 5 licences authorising lands to be used as camping sites under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were in force at the end of the year. All applications are viewed in conjunction with the planning authority and conditions with regard to siting, ancillary structures and maintenance are, where necessary, imposed. The camping sites have a total of 53 caravans and these are permanently occupied.

INDUSTRIES

The main industries of the district are :—

Coalmining	Lime Kilns
Plasticine and Wax Making	Fullers Earth
Joinery Works	Rubber Industry
Paper Making	Agriculture
Rag flock manufacture	

Inspections for purposes of provisions of health :—

	<i>No. on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Notices served</i>
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Factories Act, 1937 are enforced	30	27	1
2. Factories not included above in which Sec. 7 is enforced	10	12	2
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced	1	—	—

It has not been necessary to take action in respect of any of the 33 outworkers' premises.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of water closets is	5,600 (approx.)
„ „ „ pail „ „	1,331
„ „ „ earth „ „	168

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Visits following cases of infectious disease	51
Disinfection carried out	24
Disinfestations carried out	5

GENERAL

There are no public swimming pools or common lodging houses in the district.

There is one licensed knacker's yard which has given complete satisfaction throughout the year.

There is one manufacturer of rag flock licensed under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. Twenty-three samples were each well above the required standard of purity.

Five dealers in old metal are registered under Section 86 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

KEYNSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-JUNE, 1953	....	....	8,593
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	4,170 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	2,619
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		3.28
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£259
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	£66,030

Chairman of the Council.... COL. S. H. G. DANTON, O.B.E.,
J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee A. R. BEAUCHAM, ESQ.

Sanitary Inspector D. F. G. LOCKYEAR,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices : Keynsham.

Telephone : KEYNSHAM 2291 /3.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 112.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	51	58	109
Illegitimate	....	....	....	2	1	3
				53	59	112

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate				—	2	2
Illegitimate				—	—	—
				—	2	2

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1953	....	....	....	....	....	13.55
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					18.24
Death Rate, rate per 1000 estimated average population						14.08

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	22.50
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			15.41
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				279.72

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 144, 60 males and 84 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
" " lung, bronchus	4	2	6
" " breast	—	6	6
" " uterus	—	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	15	10	25
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	26	35
Coronary disease, angina	9	9	18
Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1
Other heart disease	5	8	13
Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	—	4
Motor vehicle accidents	—	2	2
All other accidents	—	8	8
Suicide	2	—	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	60	84	144

Deaths under One year of age

There were 3 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, all male, divided as follows:—

Under 1 week	 2	1—4 weeks	 Nil
1—6 months	 1	6—12 months	 Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	170	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet fever)	2	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Whooping cough	22	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	3	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	4	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	203	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

Ten new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

			<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>
On register, 1.1.53	....	....	21 11	— 2	21 13
New cases, 1953	....	....	3 7	— —	3 7
			24 18	— 2	24 20
Removed from register, 1953	....	....	4 1	— —	4 1
On register, 31.12.53	....	....	20 17	— 2	20 19

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act.

KEYNSHAM DAY NURSERY

The standard of cleanliness and the general health of the children attending the day nursery were uniformly good throughout the year. The only infectious disease reported was a mild form of whooping cough which affected a number of children during July and August. There were 23 children on the register, 20 aged 2–5 years and 3 aged 0–2 years. The average daily attendance was 19.

KEYNSHAM WELFARE CENTRE

Another satisfactory year's working is reported from the Keynsham Welfare Centre and from the Saltford Weighing Centre. Dr. Harrison retired from general practice at the end of the year and thanks are due to him for his conscientious work at the centre since its inception in the early years of the war. The attendance figures for the year were greatly reduced but this was probably due to the great number of families who took holidays during the Coronation year and to various celebrations which took place locally. The figures were as follows :—

	<i>Keynsham</i>	<i>Saltford</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total on Register at the beginning of the year after the deduction of over 5's	415	130	545
Total on register at the end of the year	494	152	646
Attendances :—			
January	101	11	112
February	80	8	88
March	111	9	120
April	114	17	131
May	90	11	101
June	90	11	101
July	100	12	112
August	58	3	61
(closed for 2 weeks)			
September	125	6	131
October	134	6	140
November	132	11	143
December	113	6	119
	<u>1248</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>1359</u>
Attendances for 1952 :—	1808	225	2033

SALTFORD WEIGHING CENTRE

Total on the register at the beginning of the year—152.

Total on the register at the end of the year—172.

Attendances :—

January 5th	....	....	....	44
February ....	....	....	....	36
March 2nd ....	....	....	....	38
„ 30th ....	....	....	....	25
April ....	....	....	....	No session held
May 4th ....	....	....	....	44
June 1st ....	....	....	....	17
July 3rd ....	....	....	....	30
August ....	....	....	....	Closed
September ....	....	....	....	43
October ....	....	....	....	29
November ....	....	....	....	23
December ....	....	....	....	32
			<u> </u>	361

Attendances for 1952—444.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR, 1953

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of house and trade refuse has been made on a weekly basis from the whole of the district throughout the year. The steady growth of the district has brought its problems to this service and it has on occasions been necessary to employ additional labour and transport to complete the work.

Salvage, mainly of paper, metals and rags, has continued as an integral part of the service.

The amounts of these materials sold were as follows :—

Paper	....	....	....	....	....	100 $\frac{3}{4}$	tons
Metal	....	....	....	....	....	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
Rags	....	....	....	....	....	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	„

The gross income amounted to £739.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping on the land adjoining the Unity Road Depot, and the filling of this site is proceeding very satisfactorily.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The existing sewers which serve more than 95 per cent. of the properties in the district have operated satisfactorily during the year and no major repairs have been necessary.

Extension of foul and storm water sewers has been carried out for the first section of the Park West housing estate to serve approximately 290 houses. In addition a new storm water sewer to serve a development area of some 65 acres has been completed.

Within their capacity the disposal works at Unity Road have dealt with the flow of sewage satisfactorily. Samples of the effluent submitted for analysis indicate that a fairly good standard has been maintained and no complaints have been received.

As with the cleansing service, the growth of the district makes the improvement and extension of the disposal works an urgent matter, the preparation of the scheme for which has reached an advanced stage.

HOUSING

The construction of new houses has continued as one of the major activities, and it will be noted that the number of houses completed during the year is more than twice the number in 1952. While the continuation of a similar programme is planned for the next two or three years, the publication of the Government White Paper "Houses—The Next Step" foreshadows a shifting of the emphasis from new construction to the problem of unsatisfactory existing houses. It is hoped to make an early start on this work which has had to wait so long for attention.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses in district	....	....	2619
(2)	Total number of dwelling houses owned by Council	....	....	578
(3)	New houses completed during the year :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	85
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	86
(4)	New houses under construction at 31st December, 1953 :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	80
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	110
(5)	Total number of applicants for Council Houses as at 31st December, 1953	....	....	327
(6)	Total number of post-war houses completed to 31st December, 1953 :—			
	(a) By Local Authority	....	....	470
	(b) By Private Enterprise	....	....	178
(7)	Summary of action under Housing Act, 1936 :—			
	(a) Houses inspected...	....	....	85
	(b) Total number of visits	....	....	134
	(c) Informal notices issued	....	....	32
	(d) Informal notices complied with	....	....	28
	(e) Statutory notices issued	....	....	4
	(f) Statutory notices complied with	....	....	4
	(g) Insanitary houses closed	....	....	1

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Total number of inspections	....	....	....	212
Informal notices issued	....	....	....	22
Informal notices complied with	....	....	....	17
Infectious disease {	Enquiries	....	....	10
	Disinfections	....	....	9
Enquiries into insect infestation	....	....	....	5
Disinfestation	....	....	....	2
Enquiries into various complaints of nuisance	....	....	....	22
Shops inspections	....	....	....	15
Statutory notices issued	....	....	....	2
Statutory notices complied with	....	....	....	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

By virtue of the operation of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1952, all milk retailed in the area is designated milk, and the dairy premises within the district have been satisfactorily maintained.

Thirteen samples of milk have been submitted for bacteriological examination of which two T.T. samples failed to conform to the prescribed standard.

(1) Number of registered dairy premises	....	....	....	3
(2) Number of registered distributors	....	....	....	7
(3) Number of producer /retailers in (2)	....	....	....	Nil
(4) Number of licensed pasteurising plants....	....	....	....	Nil
(5) Number of dealers' licences to retail pasteurised milk				1
(6) Number of dealers' licences to retail T.T. milk	....			3
(7) Number of supplementary licences to retail pasteurised milk	....	....	....	3
(8) Number of supplementary licences to retail T.T. milk				3
(9) Number of supplementary licences to retail sterilised milk	....	....	....	2
(10) Number of inspections at dairies, etc.	....	....	....	12

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses					5
----------------------	------	------	------	------	---

These have been periodically inspected and found in satisfactory condition.

Food Manufacturing Premises

Number of premises registered for the manufacture of food under Sec. 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	10
---	----

Except for the manufacture of pickles these premises are little used and no formal action in connection therewith has been necessary.

Slaughterhouses

Number of licensed slaughterhouses	....	....	....	3
(There are no knackers' yards)				

None of these premises is in use by the Ministry of Food and are only used occasionally for the slaughter of privately owned pigs under licence.

Inspections at butchers' and other food premises		53
--	------	----

Food surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Home-killed beef	....	....	....	....	194	lb.
Imported beef	....	....	....	....	10	„
Home killed lamb	....	....	....	....	12	„
Imported lamb	....	....	....	....	88	„
Home-killed pork	....	....	....	....	18½	„
Offal	....	....	....	....	22	„
Tinned meat....	....	....	....	....	20	tins
Tinned fish	....	....	....	....	3	„
Tinned fruit and vegetables	....	....	....	....	62	„
Tinned milk	....	....	....	....	94	„
Dried fruit	....	....	....	....	30	lb.
Meat pies and manufactured meat	....	....	....	....	24	„

Ice-Cream

The bulk of ice-cream sold in the district is produced by the large wholesale manufacturers and has been found generally quite satisfactory. A little trouble did arise at one of the manufacturers' premises within the district which accounts for the poor sample results listed below, but on detailed investigation the source of the trouble was located and overcome. Thanks are due to Dr. Mann, director of the Public Health Laboratory, Bath, for his interest and assistance in these investigations.

No. of premises registered for :—

(a) Manufacture only	....	....	....	....	....	1
(b) Manufacture and sale	....	....	....	....	....	1
(c) Retail only	....	....	....	....	....	30

During the year 36 samples of ice-cream and ingredients for the manufacture thereof were taken. Results of the tests on the ice-cream were as follows :—

Grade I	....	....	....	15	samples
Grade II	....	....	....	14	„
Grade III	....	....	....	3	„
Grade IV	....	....	....	1	„

WATER SUPPLY

Rainfall

Month	Somerdale Station (Total depth in inches)	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date
January	0.72	0.34	5th
February	1.44	0.50	9th
March	0.80	0.46	29th
April	2.53	0.62	2nd
May	1.79	0.84	18th
June	1.36	0.54	21st
July	3.57	1.27	11th
August	4.37	1.23	29th
September	3.24	1.07	21st
October	2.15	0.50	24th
November	1.40	0.33	1st
December	0.78	0.22	30th
TOTAL	24.15	—	—

The whole of the district is within the area of supply of the West Gloucestershire Water Co. and practically all domestic

supplies are obtained from this source. The quality and quantity of this supply have been satisfactory.

As the source of the public water supply is not within your district no samples of raw water have been collected by your officers. Samples of treated water have been taken quarterly for bacteriological examination and all have been found satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of the water have also been made periodically. The results indicate that the water is hard (230 parts per million), largely temporary, and slightly alkaline.

The water, being hard, has no plumbo-solvent action.

Practically all houses in the district have a piped supply direct from the main. There are no standpipes.

Samples of the water supplies to three houses with private wells were found to contain evidence of contamination and the occupiers were advised to boil all drinking water. At the same time it was understood that the owners were investigating the possibility of obtaining a main piped supply to replace the wells.

RODENT CONTROL

General

Total number of visits of inspection	....	....	843
Number of properties found infested	....	....	29
Number of properties treated by operator	....	....	28

During the course of this work no major infestation of rats was found. The situation generally in the district reflects credit upon the conscientious and thorough work of your operator but his job would be made easier if occupiers of properties realised the obligation to report immediately the presence of rats which is placed upon them by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Council Properties

These were kept under constant supervision and treated for the destruction of rodents as required.

Sewers

The annual test bait of the sewerage system revealed no infestation.

CARAVAN SITES

Six sites have been licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The majority of this accommodation is permanently occupied. All sites have been periodically visited and the owners attention drawn to deficiencies or infringements of licence conditions where noted. No recourse to formal action has been necessary.

FACTORIES AND INDUSTRY

One new factory has been opened during the year and proposals submitted for the establishment of another new industry.

There were 44 factories on the Council's register at 31st December, 1953 ; 43 visits were made to these and other premises coming within the scope of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948. No formal action was necessary to remedy the minor defects noted.

FROME URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-JUNE, 1953	....	....	11,220
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	1,194 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,354
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		3.34
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£277
RATEABLE VALUE as at MARCH, 1953	....	....	£71,052

Chairman of the Council H. M. SCOTT, Esq., J.P.

*Chairman of the Public Health
Committee* A. D. FRAMPTON, Esq., J.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector E. HOSKEN, Cert. S.I.B.,
Meat and Food Inspector,
M. R. I. P. H. H., M. S. I. A.,
Hon. Dip. in Advanced Hygiene

Additional Sanitary Inspector C. M. HOLSGROVE, M.S.I.A.,
Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Food
Inspector

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: FROME 2348

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 167.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	88	70	158
Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	5	9
				92	75	167

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	4	1	5
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				4	1	5

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1953	....	....	....	....	....	16.07
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					31.40
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					9.57

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	23.65
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			20.00
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				87.78

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 136, 57 males and 79 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	2	3
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.... ..	1	1	2
„ „ lung, bronchus	1	2	3
„ „ breast	—	1	1
„ „ uterus	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	7	7	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	10	13
Coronary disease, angina	11	7	18
Hypertension with heart disease	—	3	3
Other heart disease	9	24	33
Other circulatory disease	5	3	8
Influenza	—	1	1
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	3	4	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	—	1	1
Suicide	—	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	57	79	136

Deaths under One year of age

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 2 male and 3 female, divided as follows:—

Under 1 week	 3	1—4 weeks	 —
1—6 months	 1	6—12 months	 1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	374	1	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet fever)	4	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	1	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Whooping cough	2	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	3	3	1
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	386	4	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Nine new cases of pulmonary and two of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were three deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
On register, 1.1.53	30	15	—	2	30	17
New cases	4	5	2	—	6	5
	34	20	2	2	36	22
Removed from register, 1953	1	7	1	1	2	8
On register, 31.12.53	33	13	1	1	34	14

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act.

FROME DAY NURSERY

The Day Nursery ceased to function as a County service at the end of July. It was re-opened however, at the beginning of September by Miss Pittaway and it is to be hoped that her efforts to continue the work will meet with success. Miss Pittaway has given many years of devoted service to the children attending this day nursery and there is little doubt that she will endeavour to provide a useful and efficient service for those mothers who have need of it.

FROME WELFARE CENTRE

The Infant Welfare Centre continued to flourish in its new home. An innovation was the provision of a play room for toddlers which has filled a practical need and has proved extremely successful.

Total on the Register at the beginning of the year	358
Total on the Register at the end of the year	427

Attendance figures :—

January	....	....	....	....	319
February	....	....	....	....	239
March	....	....	....	....	272
April	....	....	....	....	222
May	....	....	....	....	280
June	....	....	....	....	259
July	....	....	....	....	316
August	....	....	....	....	232
September	....	....	....	....	289
October	....	....	....	....	322
November	....	....	....	....	248
December	....	....	....	....	135
					<u>3,133</u>

Attendance figures for 1952 3,062

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

HOUSING

The number of applicants on the Council's list is now 358, an increase of 50 as compared with 1952. This increase is due in no small part to the fact that only 14 houses have been completed by the Council in 1953. Fifteen houses built by private enterprise were completed and occupied during the same period.

The development of a large housing site at Rodden which will, eventually, accommodate 250 houses has been commenced and it is hoped that some of these houses will be completed early in 1954. In addition a small site capable of accommodating 20 houses has been purchased in another part of the town.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

During the year the following numbers of visits were made and notices served :—

Number of visits :

General sanitation	....	....	....	....	1,139
Housing	....	....	....	....	1,431

Notices served and complied with :

Number of informal notices served	....	....	59
Number of informal notices complied with	....	....	41
Number of Statutory notices served	....	....	14
Number of Statutory notices complied with	....	....	14
Total number of visits of all kinds	....	....	4,051

The following table shows sanitary improvements made during the year 1953 :—

W.C. pans and flushing fittings repaired or renewed	....	22
Roofs repaired	.... ....	14
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired or renewed	.... ....	7
Doors repaired or renewed	.... ....	2
Dampness remedied	.... ....	7
Walls repaired or renewed	.... ....	2
W.C. structure renewed	.... ....	1
Dry rot remedied	.... ....	1
Downpipes and eaves guttering cleared or repaired	....	6
Defective firegrates and places repaired or renewed	....	5
Defective ovens replaced	.... ....	2
Floors repaired	.... ....	3
Window frames repaired or renewed	.... ....	6
Sashcords renewed	.... ....	3
Repairs to defective chimneys and pots	.... ....	3
Defective tap replaced	.... ....	1

Common Lodging Houses

The two common lodging houses were visited on twelve occasions and were found to be in a satisfactory condition. Additional means of escape in case of fire was provided during the year for the attic bedrooms at both lodging houses, consisting of ordinary ladders which are stored at the side of the premises.

Rodent Control

Number of premises treated for rats	....	45
“ “ “ “ mice	....	9
Total number of visits made	....	503

MILK SUPPLY INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

- (i) Number of registered distributors of milk 4
(ii) **Milk Regulations, 1953**

The licences in respect of graded milk issued by the Frome Urban District Council and in force on the 31st December, 1953, were as follows :—

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designation “ Pasteurised ”	.... ....	1
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designation “ Tuberculin Tested ”	.... ....	4
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of Special Designation “ Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested ”	....	1

During the year 19 samples of designated milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all conformed to the required standard.

Bakehouses

The twelve bakehouses in the Urban District were all inspected during the year. Four informal notices were served and complied with.

Ice-Cream

Registered premises are now 38, but four of these no longer sell ice cream. During the year 43 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Bath and the results of tests were as follows :—

Grade I	....	....	....	37 samples
„ II	....	....	....	3 samples
„ III	....	....	....	3 samples
„ IV	....	....	....	Nil

MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1,709	2,208	5,130	8,792
Number inspected		As killed		
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS				
Whole carcases condemned	23	155	20	78
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,032	6	681	892
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	61·7%	7·3%	13·7%	11%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY				
Whole carcases condemned	22	—	—	15
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	204	—	—	320
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13·2%	—	—	3·9%

OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

2,594 lb. of foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption, the main items of which were as follows:—

	lb.
Cheese	9
Dried fruit	113
Canned meat	302
„ Fruit	396
„ Vegetables	247
Wet fish	205
Meat products	263
Carcase meat	404
Cereals	273
Tea	30
Salt	26

One hundred and fourteen visits were made to food preparing premises during 1953.

SWIMMING BATH

Seven samples were taken from the Public Swimming Bath and all were satisfactory. The installation of a chlorination and filtration plant has been commenced.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

There were 85 factories on the Council's register as at the 31st December, 1953. Visits were made to 35 factories and six informal notices were served and complied with.

The number of outworkers contained in the August list was 41 all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel. No action was found necessary in respect of outworkers' premises.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory over the whole period under review. Supervision and control of this service is under the direction of the Council's Surveyor.

Routine samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and the results were as shown :—

Number of samples taken	30
„ „ satisfactory samples	30
„ „ unsatisfactory samples	Nil

One routine chemical sample taken was satisfactory. Approximately 300 houses are supplied from stand pipes in common use by more than one household.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Twenty-four batches of bedding were disinfected and five batches destroyed at the request of the owners.

Five premises were disinfested of flies and fleas. Twelve rooms were disinfected after cases of infectious and other diseases.

FROME RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

POPULATION ESTIMATED MID-JUNE, 1953	....	....	10,390
AREA OF THE DISTRICT	....	....	51,933 acres
NUMBER OF HOUSES INHABITED ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS	....	....	3,434
AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER HOUSE	....		3.02
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE	....	....	£162
RATEABLE VALUE AT 1ST APRIL, 1953	....	....	£40,328

<i>Chairman of the Council</i>	....	C. CULLEN, ESQ. J.P.
<i>Chairman of the General Pur- poses Committee</i>	....	C. CULLEN, ESQ. J.P.
<i>Sanitary Inspector</i>	....	C. H. PROSSER

Public Offices, Frome.

Telephone: FROME 2625

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of live births registered, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 170.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	82	80	162
Illegitimate	....	....	....	4	4	8
				86	84	170

STILL BIRTHS

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	....	....	....	2	1	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
				2	1	3

Birth Rate, per 1000 estimated resident population, mid 1953	....	....	....	....	....	18·16
Still births, rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	....					19·25
Death Rate, per 1000 estimated average population	....					6·87

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1000 live births	....	....	....	9·76
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	....			10·25
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births				Nil

DEATHS

The number of deaths, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, total 86, 42 males and 44 females. The following Table indicates the cause of death :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, other, ...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach....	4	2	6
„ „ lung, bronchus	1	—	1
„ „ breast	—	2	2
„ „ uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	2	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	6	11
Coronary disease, angina	4	5	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
Other heart disease	12	11	23
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
Influenza	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5	6
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1
All other accidents	—	2	2
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	42	44	86

Deaths under One year of age

There were 2 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1 male and 1 female, divided as follows :—

Under 1 week	 2	1—4 weeks	 Nil
1—6 months	 Nil	6—12 months	 Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Measles	287	—	—
Scarlatina (Scarlet fever)	14	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—
Enteric or paratyphoid fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	1	1	—
Dysentery	9	—	—
Whooping cough	121	—	—
Acute primary pneumonia	14	6	—
Acute influenzal pneumonia	1	1	—
Acute poliomyelitis	4	4	1
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—
Typhoid fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—
Food poisoning	—	—	—
	453	13	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Eight new cases of pulmonary and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. There was one death from pulmonary tuberculosis.

			<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-pulmonary</i>	<i>Total</i>
			<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>	<i>M. F.</i>
On register, 1.1.53	....	....	14 10	3 1	17 11
New cases, 1953	....	....	3 5	1 —	4 5
			17 15	4 1	21 16
Removed from register, 1953	....	....	5 3	1 —	6 3
On register 31.12.53	....	....	12 12	3 1	15 13

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

The seven Council-owned supplies have been adequate during the year. Work has progressed upon enlarging the distribution area of the Norton St. Philip source to supply the parish of Hemington and it is anticipated that this scheme will soon be in operation. This is the first major scheme to be carried out since the war and will be followed by Western Regional Schemes I and II and the North-East Area Scheme.

It is expected that all the works described above will be done within the next five years together with the complete renewal of the Blatchbridge and Woodlands supply from the Urban Council source. The existing and proposed sources of supply are as shown hereunder :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing Source</i>	<i>Proposed Source</i>
Beckington	Norton	Norton
Berkley	Private	N.E. Region
Buckland	Buckland	W. Reg. II
Chantry	Wells	W. Reg. II
Cloford	Private	W. Reg. I
Coleford	Coleford	W. Reg. II

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Existing Source</i>	<i>Proposed Source</i>
Elm	Private	W. Reg. II
Faulkland	Wells	Norton
Hardington	Private	Norton
Hemington	Private	Norton
Kilmersdon	Radstock U.D.C.	Radstock U.D.C.
Leigh	Leigh	W. Reg. II
Laverton	Wells	Norton
Lullington	Wells	Norton
Mells	Mells	W. Reg. II
Norton	Norton	Norton
Nunney	Nunney	Nunney
Rode	Norton	Norton
Rudge	Wells	N.E. Region
Selwood	U.D.C.	U.D.C.
Standerwick	Wells	N.E. Region
Tellisford	Wolverton	Norton
Upton Noble	Wells	W. Reg. I
Wanstrow	Wanstrow	W. Reg. I
Whatley	Wells	W. Reg. II
Witham	Witham	Witham
Woodlands	Woodlands	Frome U.D.C.

Of the seven Council owned sources of supply, two only can be regarded as of satisfactory quality and these are at Norton St. Philip and Nunney. It has been impracticable to obtain suitable alternative sources of supply within the district and water will be purchased in bulk from adjacent authorities. When all schemes have been completed all parishes will have an adequate supply and water will be drawn from the sources as follows.

<i>District</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Owned by</i>
North East Area	Wiltshire	Bradford & Melksham W.B.
North West Area	Norton St. Philip	Frome R.D.C.
South East Area	Egford, Frome	Frome U.D.C.
South West Area	Stoke Lane	Shepton Mallet R.D.C.
Kilmersdon	Downhead	Norton-Radstock U.D.C.
Nunney	Gaer Hill	Frome R.D.C.
Witham Friary	Gaer Hill	Bradley Estate Co.

Sampling

Monthly samples of the larger public supplies and quarterly samples of the smaller supplies in the district have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Bath. Generally, the results have been satisfactory but in two cases it was necessary to carry out minor works to prevent pollution by surface water.

As a result of unsatisfactory samples from private wells, two have been closed.

Sewage Disposal

No new works or extensions to existing sewerage systems have been carried out. Plans have been approved for new sewers and disposal plant at Beckington and Kilmersdon and these are about to go to tender. It is expected that work will commence early in the new year. The Beckington scheme will remove the nuisance caused by gross pollution of the river Frome into which the drainage of the village passes untreated.

Conditions at Norton St Philip have become even less satisfactory than formerly since the erection of the council houses and in view of the pollution of the Wellow brook the consultant has proposed plans for a new system of sewerage and disposal plant for the village. These have been submitted to the Ministry for approval.

Refuse Collection

The fortnightly collection (weekly in the case of Coleford) is still carried out by a contractor. The scheme has worked reasonably well but cannot be entirely satisfactory unless the Council employ their own labour and use a specially-made vehicle.

Refuse is tipped at four places situated at convenient points in the district. These are at Faulkland, Nunney, Oldford and Coleford. Two of them are council owned and the other two are rented. The contract permitting the Frome U.D.C. to tip refuse at Oldford has been renewed. An outbreak of fire at the tip caused serious inconvenience to householders in the vicinity. All tips are uncontrolled.

RIVER POLLUTION

Several cases of pollution were noted during the year and warning instructions given to offenders. The engineer to the River Board complained of pollution caused by the outfall at Nunney brook. Samples were taken and submitted to the county bacteriologist and the results showed the degree of pollution to be high. Owing to this, and also due to gross pollution at Beckington and Norton St. Philip, the Council decided to keep the matter under review as they felt that the time was not opportune for them to embark upon the provision of a new plant at Nunney.

HOUSING

Notices

Seventeen informal notices and five statutory notices have been issued and all have been complied with. Very many houses have had water closets fitted during the year and the majority of these rely upon septic tanks as a means of sewage disposal.

NEW HOUSES

During 1953, 55 council houses and 17 private houses were erected. The number of post-war Council and private houses are 199 and 92 respectively.

HOUSING GRANTS

In view of the very high standard set by the Ministry to which houses must conform in order to rank for a grant, no proposal or recommendation has been submitted to the Ministry by the Council. Only three applications have been received and as the properties in question had no damp proof courses they were rejected.

Temporary Accommodation

Houses have been provided at Nunney to rehouse tenants from the hutments at Marston Park. Some tenants secured accommodation in the Urban area and the remainder, with the exception of one who refused to move, have gone to Flowerfield, Nunney.

Camping Sites

The one communal caravan and camping site has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

FOOD PREMISES

Ice-cream

Seventeen samples of pre-packed ice-cream were taken from retailers' premises during the year and submitted to the laboratory. There are no manufacturers in the district.

Shops

Regular inspections have been made and informal action taken where necessary. It has been found that shopkeepers are now more willing to co-operate in matters regarding cleanliness, etc., than formerly.

Tinned Foodstuffs

Very few requests have been made for condemnation certificates and this is due no doubt to the abolition of the points rationing scheme.

FACTORIES

Sanitary Accommodation

Two notices have been served by H.M. Inspector relating to unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation. These have been complied with. It has not been found necessary to notify H.M. Inspector of any contravention.

Knacker's Yard

The one knackers yard at The Mount, Frome, has been well maintained. Regular inspection has been carried out and it has been found that the owners are most willing to effect any suggested improvements.

RATS AND MICE

Surveys and treatment have been carried out in accordance with Ministry requirements. Liaison has been maintained with the Control Officer and Pests Officer of the Agricultural Committee. Regular treatment has been carried out on sewers and refuse tips and domestic premises have been treated as complaints have arisen.

